

Message Text

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DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO WHITE HOUSE AND, AS
APPROPRIATE, OTHER POSTS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM, SALT, PEPR, UR, GW
SUBJ: CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT
REGARDING THE BREZHNEV VISIT

1. JUERGEN RUHFUS OF THE CHANCELLORY TODAY PASSED
TO US THE FOLLOWING POINTS WHICH HE SAID THE CHANCELLOR
WISHED THE PRESIDENT TO KNOW FROM THE CHANCELLOR'S
CONVERSATIONS WITH BREZHNEV YESTERDAY:

2. GRAY AREA SYSTEMS

WITH REGARD TO GRAY AREA SYSTEMS, THE CHANCELLOR SPOKE
TO BREZHNEV OF THE DISPARITY IN TANKS, BOMBERS, AND
ROCKETS IN EUROPE. IN RESPONSE, BREZHNEV SAID THAT
THE SOVIET UNION WAS WILLING TO INCLUDE MEDIUM-RANGE
SYSTEMS IN NEGOTIATIONS ON ARMS LIMITATIONS, ON THE
BASIS OF MUTUALITY AND THAT THE SECURITY OF
NEITHER SIDE WOULD BE JEOPARDIZED. SCHMIDT REPLIED
THAT HE HEARD THIS WITH SATISFACTION, AND THAT HE
WOULD WELCOME HAVING SUCH NEGOTIATIONS TAKE PLACE
BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES.

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BREZHNEV SAID NOTHING MORE ON THE SUBJECT.

3. SALT

WITH REGARD TO SALT, BREZHNEV SAID THE SOVIET UNION
WANTED PROGRESS AND SUCCESS IN THE SALT II NEGOTIATIONS.
THE CHANCELLOR REPLIED THAT HE HIMSELF WAS ENTIRELY

CONVINCED PRESIDENT CARTER WAS A MAN OF PEACE WHO ALSO WISHED TO REDUCE THE BURDEN OF ARMAMENTS. BREZHNEV REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW THE PRESIDENT PERSONALLY. SCHMIDT REPLIED THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD BE PREPARED TO MEET BREZHNEV AND TO ASSURE THE SUCCESS OF A SALT II NEGOTIATION, BUT THAT THE GERMANS COULD SEE PROBLEMS DEVELOPING IN US PUBLIC OPINION AND IN THE US CONGRESS; IN THAT CONNECTION, SCHMIDT ADDED, RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN AFRICA, SUCH AS IN ANGOLA AND ETHIOPIA, WERE OF CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE. ONCE AGAIN, BREZHNEV DID NOT COMMENT.

4. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, RUHFUS SAID THAT BREZHNEV'S REMARKS ON THE NEUTRON WEAPON IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH SCHMIDT WERE ALONG THE SAME LINES AS HIS KONSOMOL SPEECH AND PRESENTED NOTHING NEW. AS FOR BREZHNEV'S DEMEANOR, RUHFUS SAID THAT IN THE SECOND MEETING WITH SCHMIDT THERE HAD BEEN A QUOTE LIMITED UNQUOTE DIALOGUE, IN THE SENSE THAT BREZHNEV REPLIED ORALLY ON SOME POINTS. FOR THE MOST PART, HOWEVER, BREZHNEV ONLY READ FROM PREPARED STATEMENTS. IN THE SECOND MEETING, NOBODY WAS PRESENT EXCEPT THE PRINCIPALS, TWO INTERPRETERS, AND TWO NOTE TAKERS.

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